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17 November 1961

[Redacted]
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

*USSR-Finland: Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov's contention to the Finnish ambassador on 16 November that the West German threat had become more serious since the Soviet note of 30 October seems designed to set the stage for more insistent Soviet demands that Finland accept the validity of the Soviet charges against Bonn. The Soviets may have been encouraged to believe that Kekkonen's dissolution of parliament indicates that additional concessions can be obtained, particularly a forthright government statement in line with Gromyko's request for prompt assurances of continued Finnish neutrality. The renewal of the charges of Norwegian and Danish cooperation with West Germany may also be timed to create an atmosphere of anxiety which can be exploited to place pressure on Oslo and Copenhagen during Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange's visit to Moscow on 19 November. In support of his claim that a more alarming situation had developed with reference to the military threat from West Germany, Kuznetsov cited the visit by Bonn's Defense Minister Strauss to Norway, the imminence of NATO maneuvers in the Baltic area, and press reports of an early agreement between Denmark and West Germany on a joint naval command in the Baltic. The Finnish ambassador has been called back to Helsinki.

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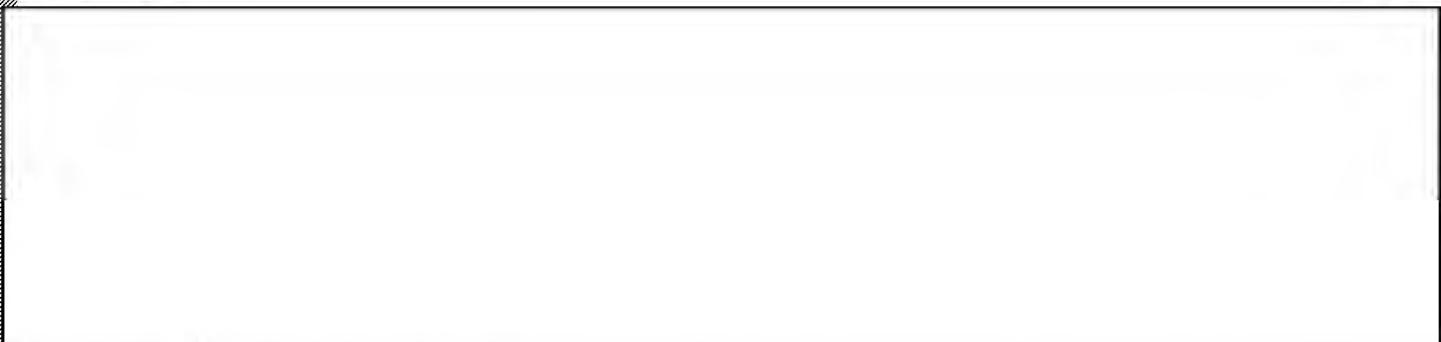
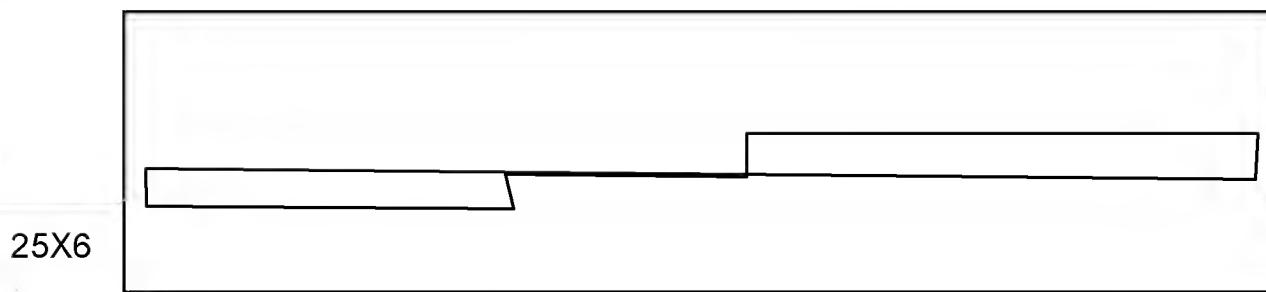
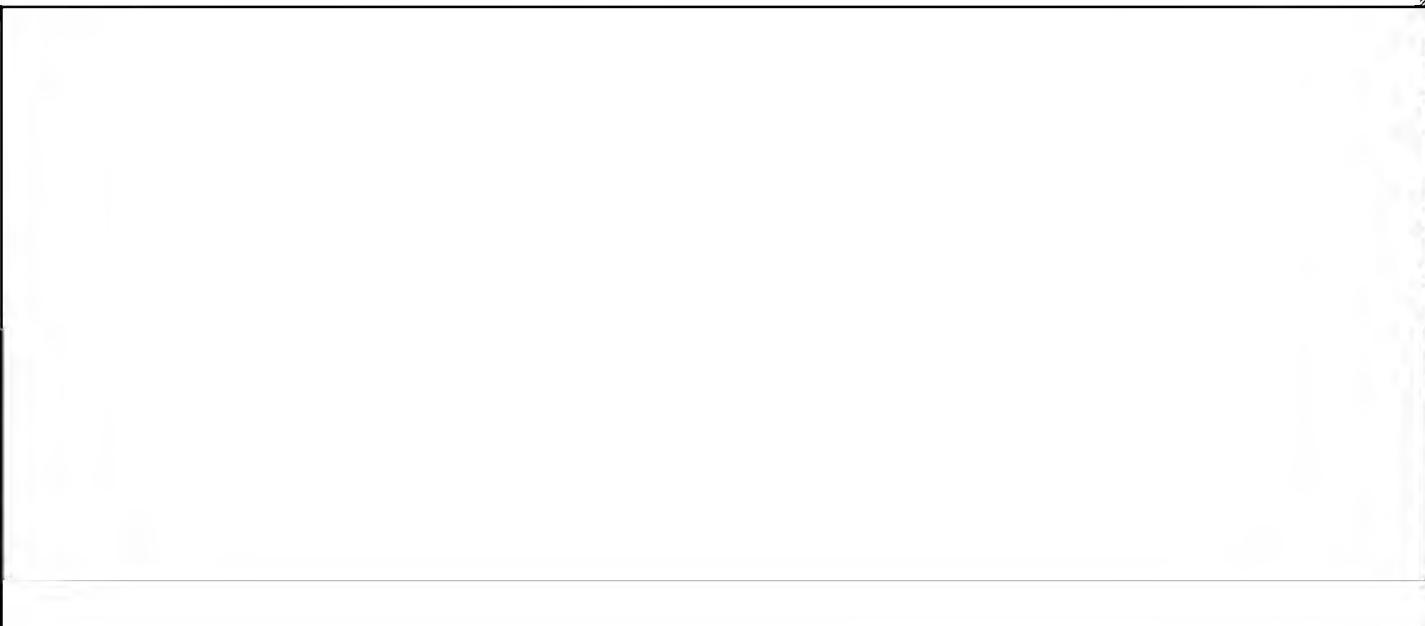
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Singapore: [Discontent in Singapore is mounting over Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's proposals to merge Singapore and Malaya into a "Greater Malaysia Federation" and over his government's restrictive labor policies. The regime has used]



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[strikebreakers and Gurkha forces from the British Army in an attempt to break a strike of government day laborers, now in its third week. Other strikes are planned, and students in the Chinese schools are reported planning demonstrations. Singapore's leftist opposition party, which has reservations about some provisions of the merger scheme, has so far avoided unlawful demonstrations, but Lee may attempt to provoke such action to give him grounds for interning its leaders.] (Backup, Page 2)

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El Salvador: In El Salvador, the only Latin American country where the Alliance for Progress has become a bitter domestic issue, the likelihood of an attempt to overthrow the regime is growing with the approach of national elections scheduled for 17 December. El Salvador's powerful "14 families," in resisting the regime's program of basic socio-economic reform, have mounted a propaganda campaign against the regime and against the US for encouraging the reforms. This campaign is supported by the entire press. The small but vocal Communist-led element is joining in the attacks. Reports of divisions within the armed forces, and even within the governing Civil-Military Directorate, have become more persistent in recent weeks, as have reports that opposition elements are attempting to buy military support for a coup.

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SELECTED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

(Available during the preceding week)

Outlook in Eastern Europe: assessment of prospects for political and economic stability in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, including internal trends, intra-bloc relations, reliability of armed forces, and probable reaction to intensified Berlin crisis. U. S. I. B. NIE 12-61.
6pp. Nov 9'61.

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LATE ITEM

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***Dominican Republic** (information as of 0230 EDT): With top military leadership still in question late yesterday as General Ramfis Trujillo persists in his resolve to resign and leave the country, a spreading transport strike threatens public order in the capital and in the interior. The flow of produce into the city has been interrupted. There were indications late on 16 November that the still potent political machine of the late dictator may be preparing to commit its strong arm squads against the strikers. A leader of the moderate opposition reports that the authorities have been drawing up lists of opposition leaders, presumably in preparation for mass arrests.

Ramfis Trujillo told the American Consul General that his decision to resign was taken for purely personal reasons. He proposed that General Hector Trujillo, his uncle, remain in the country as a "symbol of the continuity of the Trujillo name" necessary to prevent the armed forces from fighting among themselves. Hector, who served in the presidency for eight years as the puppet of the late dictator, is anathema to the majority of Dominicans. [Redacted]

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Discontent in Singapore Could Lead to Riots

Prime Minister Lee's chief difficulty with labor stems from the control exercised by the opposition Singapore Socialist Front (SSF) over most of Singapore's unions. The day laborers' strike began with a request for government recognition on 31 October. This was refused, because the government feared that the new union would draw members away from the pro-government Amalgamated Union of Public Employees and weaken the government's popular base. Planned strikes by other unions, including a one-day demonstration by the military base workers on 20 November, appear to be designed in part to support the day laborers' strike and in part to protest against Lee's proposals for merger with Malaya.

Opposition to merger with Malaya turns mainly on the degree of sovereignty to be surrendered to the Federation Government. Under the present plan, Singapore will surrender control over external affairs, defense, and internal security to the Federation Government but retain autonomy over education and labor policies. While control over education should reassure most Chinese elements in Singapore, the leftist elements, spearheaded by the SSF, attack the surrender of internal security as relegating Singaporeans to second-class citizenship.

It appears that Lee will seek approval of the merger scheme through the Legislative Assembly, where he is expected to win a comfortable majority. If he decides not to hold a referendum on the issue, he will place the SSF in an untenable position. Its only chance to block the merger is to bring down the government, which it could do only by resorting to violence. If it does, Lee is prepared to have the leaders interned. If it does not, it faces suppression by the Federation Government after merger.

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The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

The Scientific Adviser to the President

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The Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization

The Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

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